

Application No. 09/733,616
Amendment dated February 25, 2005
Reply to Office Action of October 25, 2004

PATENT

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 11 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45,~~4~~ wherein the electronic document is downloaded from a database coupled to a computer network.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45,~~4~~ further comprising saving the electronic information disclosure statement in a database.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the database is a local database in communication with ~~coupled to~~ a local computer network.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12 wherein the database is a remote database in communication with ~~coupled to~~ the internet.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45,~~4~~ further comprising providing access to the electronic information disclosure statement to multiple users over a network.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15 further comprising prompting the user for an access code when the user requests access to the electronic information disclosure statement, wherein when the correct code is provided by the user, the user may access the electronic information disclosure statement, and when the correct code is not provided by the user, the user may not access the electronic information disclosure statement.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45,+ further comprising providing the user with instructions on when an electronic document is to be disclosed to a patent office.

18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45,+ further comprising:
the computer determining receiving a second signal indicating that a patent application corresponding to the electronic information disclosure statement is being electronically filed in an official-a patent office; and

electronically transmitting the electronic information disclosure statement to the official patent office contemporaneously with the patent application.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45,+ further comprising the computer automatically generating a letter to third party in a foreign country when the electronic information disclosure statement is filed in a patent office, the letter including a portion of ~~the IDS information in~~ the electronic information disclosure statement.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45,+ wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a United States Patent.

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45,+ wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45,+ wherein the electronic document is an electronic version of a publication.

Claims 24-31 (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 63,-24 wherein said computer-readable memory further includes computer instructions to save the electronic information disclosure statement in a database.

33. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 63,-24 wherein said computer-readable memory further includes computer instructions to provide access to the electronic information disclosure statement to multiple users over a network.

34. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the database is a local database in communication with ~~coupled to~~ a local computer network.

35. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 32 wherein the database is a remote database in communication with ~~coupled to~~ the internet.

36. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 63,-24 wherein said computer-readable memory further includes computer instructions to download the electronic document from a database coupled to a computer network.

37. (Original) The computer system of claim 33 wherein said computer-readable memory further includes computer instructions to prompt the user for an access code when the user requests access to the electronic information disclosure statement, wherein when the correct code is provided by the user, the user may access the electronic information disclosure statement, and when the correct code is not provided by the user, the user may not access the electronic information disclosure statement.

38. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 63,-24 wherein said computer-readable memory further includes computer instructions to provide the user with instructions on when an electronic document is to be disclosed to a patent office.

39. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 63,-24 wherein the computer instructions to provide for the transmission of the electronic information disclosure

~~statement to the official patent office comprise said computer-readable memory further includes~~
computer instructions to electronically transmit the electronic information disclosure statement to
a patent office.

40. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 63, -24 wherein said
computer-readable memory further includes computer instructions to:

determine ~~receive a second signal indicating~~ that a patent application
corresponding to the electronic information disclosure statement is being electronically filed in
the official-a patent office; and

electronically transmit the electronic information disclosure statement to the
official patent office substantially contemporaneously with the patent application.

41. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 63, -24 wherein said
computer-readable memory further includes computer instructions to automatically generate a
letter to third party in a foreign country when the electronic information disclosure statement is
filed in the official-a patent office, the letter including a portion of the ~~IDS information in the~~
electronic information disclosure statement.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 63, -24 wherein the electronic
document is an electronic version of a United States Patent.

43. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 63, -24 wherein the electronic
document is an electronic version of a foreign patent document.

44. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 63, -24 wherein the electronic
document is an electronic version of a publication.

45. (New) A method of generating an information disclosure statement in a
form suitable for filing with an official patent office, the method comprising:

a computer providing an interface for a user to review at least one electronic
document that is relevant to a patent application;

the computer allowing a user to identify the at least one relevant electronic document for disclosure to a patent office;

the computer incorporating at least some information from the electronic document into an electronic information disclosure statement, wherein the electronic information disclosure statement comprises a form suitable for filing with an official patent office; and

providing for the transmission of the electronic information disclosure statement to the official patent office.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein providing for the transmission of the electronic information disclosure statement to the official patent office comprises printing the electronic information disclosure statement to create an information disclosure statement for mailing to the official patent office.

47. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein providing for the transmission of the electronic information disclosure statement to the official patent office comprises transmitting the electronic information disclosure statement electronically to the official patent office.

48. (New) The method of claim 45, and wherein allowing a user to select at least one relevant electronic document for disclosure to a patent office comprises allowing the user to browse the Internet to find at least one relevant electronic document.

49. (New) The method of claim 45, and wherein allowing a user to select at least one relevant document for disclosure to a patent office comprises allowing the user to search a database of electronic documents to find at least one relevant electronic document.

50. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein incorporating at least some information from the at least one electronic document into the electronic information disclosure statement comprises:

the computer extracting a relevant portion of a set of reference information from the at least one electronic document; and

the computer incorporating inserting the relevant portion of the set of reference information into the electronic document.

51. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein extracting a relevant portion of a set of reference information comprises:

allowing the user to select in the electronic document a relevant portion of a set of reference information; and

providing the user with an option to insert the selected relevant portion into the electronic information into the electronic information disclosure statement.

52. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein extracting a relevant portion of a set of reference information comprises:

allowing the user to drag a relevant portion of a set of reference information from the at least one electronic document into the electronic information disclosure statement.

53. (New) The method of claim 50, wherein extracting a relevant portion of a set of reference information comprises:

parsing the at least electronic document for a relevant portion of a set of reference information.

54. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein incorporating at least some information from the at least one electronic document into the electronic information disclosure statement comprises inserting into the electronic information disclosure statement a link to the at least one electronic document.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein providing for the transmission of the electronic information disclosure statement to the official patent office comprises inserting into the electronic document a set of information from the linked electronic document.

56. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein incorporating at least some information from the at least one electronic document into the electronic information disclosure statement comprises storing the at least one electronic document in the electronic information disclosure statement.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, wherein providing for the transmission of the transmission of the electronic information disclosure statement to the official patent office comprises:

filtering a set of relevant information from the at least one document stored in the electronic information disclosure statement, such that the electronic information disclosure statement comprises the set of relevant information.

58. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the interface is a web browser.

59. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein determining that a patent application corresponding to the electronic information disclosure statement is being electronically filed in the official patent office comprises receiving user input indicating that the patent application is being electronically filed in the official patent office.

60. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the electronic information disclosure statement is a document separate from but related to the patent application, and wherein the electronic disclosure statement is configured to be filed to fulfill a patent applicant's duty of disclosure to the official patent office.

61. (New) The method of claim 60, further comprising:
receiving from the user a set of general information to be included in the electronic information disclosure statement, the set of general information comprising information about the patent application to which the electronic information disclosure statement is related.

62. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising:
downloading the at least one electronic document from the Internet.

63. (New) A computer system, comprising:
a processor and a computer-readable memory in communication with the
processor, the computer-readable memory including computer instructions to:
provide an interface for a user to review at least one electronic document
that is relevant to a patent application;
allow a user to identify the at least one relevant electronic document for
disclosure to a patent office;
incorporate at least some information from the electronic document into an
electronic information disclosure statement, wherein the electronic information disclosure
statement comprises a form suitable for filing with an official patent office; and
provide for the transmission of the electronic information disclosure
statement to the official patent office.

64. (New) A computer software program embodied on a computer-readable
memory, the computer software program comprising instructions executable by a computer to:
provide an interface for a user to review at least one electronic document
that is relevant to a patent application;
allow a user to identify the at least one relevant electronic document for
disclosure to a patent office;
incorporate at least some information from the electronic document into an
electronic information disclosure statement, wherein the electronic information disclosure
statement comprises a form suitable for filing with an official patent office; and
provide for the transmission of the electronic information disclosure
statement to the official patent office.